

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18257 271114Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6813

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BBSR; TH
SUBJ: WTD REPORTS, REQUESTED BY U.S. BUSINESS PERSONS AT EMBASSY

REF : USDOC 11628

1. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF E-SYSTEMS CO. VISITED AT COMMERCIAL SECTION EMBASSY BANGKOK AND ASKED TO BUY THREE WTDR'S. LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN CHARGE OF WTDR'S EXPLAINED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE COPY OF WTDR'S BECAUSE COMMERCIAL SECTION'S XEROX MACHINE OUT-OF-ORDER, BUT COULD MAKE FILES AVAILABLE IF E-SYSTEMS REPRESENTATIVE WISHED TO COPY INFO BY HAND. WHEN E-SYSTEMS RE INSISTED ON BUYING COPIES OF WTDR'S, COMMERCIAL OFFICER SENT LOCAL EMPLOYEE TO EMBASSY COMPOUND TO MAKE COPIES (COMMERCIAL SECTION IS IN SEPARATE LOCATION FROM MAIN CHANCERY BUILDING). WHEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE RETURNED WITH COPIES OF REQUESTED WTDR'S THEY WERE GIVEN TO E-SYSTEMS REP FREE OF CHARGE.

2. EMBASSY GAVE WTDR'S TO E-SYSTEMS REP RATHER THAN SELL THEM FOR TWO REASONS: (1) EMBASSY CASHIER WAS CLOSED AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER DID NOT WISH TO ACCEPT PAYMENT OUTSIDE REGULAR CHANNELS, NOR WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT RECEIPT. (2) COMMERCIAL OFFICER FELT IT INAPPROPRIATE TO CHARGE AN AMERICAN COMPANY FOR WTDR INFORMATION WHICH WAS NOT CURRENT. (TWO OF THE THREE WTDR'S WERE NOT CURRENT, ONE WAS LAST UPDATED IN 1969). COMMERCIAL OFFICER EXPLAINED THIS TO E-SYSTEMS REP AND REFUSED
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TO ACCEPT E-SYSTEM'S MONEY.

3. WHILE WAITING FOR COPIES TO BE MADE AT CHANCERY AND RETURNED, E-SYSTEMS' REP EXPLAINED TO COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT HE WAS REQUIRED BY HIS FIRM TO SEND PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF WTDR'S TO HIS HEAD OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. E-SYSTEMS REP REGULARLY TRAVELS TO EA POSTS WHERE HE PAYS FIFTEEN DOLLARS PER COPY OF WHATEVER

POSTS HAVE IN THEIR FILE, TAKES COPIES BACK TO MANILA AND MAILED THEM TO WASHINGTON. COMMERCIAL OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT E-SYSTEMS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON COULD PURCHASE SAME REPORTS FOR THE SAME FEE DIRECTLY FROM USDOC. MOREOVER USDOC COULD INSURE REPORTS WERE CURRENT BY REQUESTING POST TO UPDATE OLD WTDR'S, RATHER THAN E-SYSTEMS PRESENT HIT-OR-MISS APPROACH. E-SYSTEMS REP WAS UNAWARE THAT WTDR INFORMATION FROM ALL POSTS IS MADE AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN FIRMS THROUGH A CENTRAL OFFICE IN USDOC. COMMERCIAL OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT E-SYSTEMS REP RECOMMEND TO HIS HEAD OFFICE THAT IN INTEREST OF INCREASED EFFICIENCY, THRIFT AND UNIFORMITY, THEY PURCHASE ALL WTDR DIRECTLY FROM USDOC, OR HE COULD OBTAIN ALL WTDR'S THROUGH MANILA WITHOUT HAVING TO VISIT EACH POST SEPARATELY. E-SYSTEMS REP LEFT COMMERCIAL SECTION DEEPLY TROUBLED THAT COMMERCIAL OFFICER WOULD NOT ACCEPT HIS MONEY.

4. AS A GENERAL RULE EMBASSY BANGKOK MAKES WTDR INFORMATION AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FOR TWO REASONS: (1) EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS IT IS USDOC POLICY TO ALLOW FREE ACCESS TO WTDR INFORMATION FOR BONA FIDE REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN FIRMS. (2) COMMERCIAL SECTION IS IN SEPARATE LOCATION FROM EMBASSY CHANCERY AND EMBASSY CASHIER. TO AFFECT SALE ACCORDING TO USG REGULATIONS BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS COME TO COMMERCIAL SECTION FOR WTDR WOULD HAVE TO GO TO CHANCERY, PAY EMBASSY CASHIER, OBTAIN RECEIPT, RETURN TO COMMERCIAL SECTION, AND SHOW RECEIPT BEFORE RECEIVING WTDR. CASHIER IS ONLY OPEN FROM 0900 TO 1200 AND 1300 TO 1430, WHEREAS COMMERCIAL SECTION IS OPEN TO PUBLIC FROM 0730
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TO 1630. COMMERCIAL SECTION EMBASSY ANGKOK TRIES TO BE OF SERVICE TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ABROAD AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE ALLOWING THEM ACCESS TO WTDR FILES FREE OF CHARGE UNLESS REQUEST REQUIRES UPDATING BY EMBASSY STAFF OR OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY USDOC.
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Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780618/aaaaaoxx.tel
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